THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): **(a) No,** Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Chinese Project to "Lift" the Brahmaputra waters to Gobi Desert

1702. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a project of China to "Lift" the Brahmaputra waters to the Gobi desert to the great disadvantage of the North Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent China from indulging in the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) There was a news report entitled "China's 'explosive' Design on Brahmaputra carried by the 'Economic Times dated 18th November, 1996 is based on an article in the June, 1996 issue of the Scientific American (A US Journal). This article quotes a US expert, belonging to an NGO, that Chinese engineers may have prepared a concept paper of using peaceful nuclear explosions (PNEs) for a project to build a 20 kilometre channel through a mountain range for diverting water of Brahmaputra river.

China subsequently, revised its position on PNEs. It announced a moratorium on the conduct of nuclear expulsions on 29th July, 1996 and signed the comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 24th September, 1996, which prohibits PNEs and provides for a review on the utility of the PNEs after 10 years, if there is a consensus among the States Parties of the CTBT.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

मध्य प्रदेश में हसदेव बायी तट नहर का निर्माण

1703. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में हसदेव बायी तट नहर के निर्माण के लिये "नाबार्ड" से 1994-95, 1995-96 एवं 1996-97 में कितनी धनराशि प्राप्त हुई;

(ख) राज्य सरकार द्वारा इस कार्य के लिए कितनी धनराशि की मांग की गई थी;

(ग) इस महत्वपूर्ण सिंचाई योजना पर मार्च, 1997 तक कितनी धनराशि खर्च हो चुकी है और कितने प्रतिशत कार्य पूरा किया जा चुका है; और

(घ) नाबार्ड द्वारा अधूरी सिंचाई [illegible] करा कर सिंचाई सुविधाओं में वृद्धि हेतु विगत तीन वर्षों में दी गई सहायता, पूर्ण की गई योजनाओं के नाम, उन पर व्यय की गई धनराशि तथा प्राप्त उपलब्धियों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री शीश राम ओला): (क) से (ग) हसदेव बायी तट नहर नाम की कोई परियोजना नहीं है। नाबार्ड ने हसदेव बायी तट नहर के लिए किसी भी प्रकार की वित्तीय सहायता नहीं बढ़ायी है। नाबार्ड ने मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से इस प्रकार की किसी परियोजना के लिए वित्तीय सहायता देने संबंधी प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं किया है।

(घ) नाबार्ड ने अभी तक मध्य प्रदेश की 4 वृहद्, 21 मध्यम तथा 277 लघु सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के लिए 438.79 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए हैं। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार जून, 1997 तक आठ मध्यम और 101 लघु सिंचाई स्कीमें पूरी की गई हैं।

Sharing Common Water Resources between India and Nepal

1704. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Nepal, the question of sharing common water resources between the two countries was considered;

(b) if so, what precise issues were discussed there; and

(c) what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal from 5—7 June, 1997, aspects concerning Indo-Nepal co-operation in Water Resources Sector particularly relating to implementation of Mahakali treaty on [illegible] River Waters and preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project were discussed. The instrument of ratification of Mahakali Treaty between the two countries on the integrated development of Mahakali river was exchanged on 6th June, 1997. The two Prime Ministers directed their Officials to continue their discussions and resolve the outstanding issues for the completion of the Pancheshwar Detailed Project Report.

The two Ministers further directed their officials to take immediate action to finalise modalities for supply of power from Tanakpur to Nepal and for the development of necessary infrastructure for supply of water from Tanakpur and Sarda barrages to Nepal as per Treaty. The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal also directed their officials to expedite a joint study of river navigation for promotion of Tourism and for facilitating transportation of Cargo.

Cauvery Dispute

1705. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JALALUDDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Chief Minister Shri E. K. Nayanar has expressed his concern at the moves to consider the Cauvery dispute as a matter between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka neglecting the interests of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the draft scheme for the implementation of the Order dated 25.6.1991 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was formulated by the Central Government under Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 and sent on 30.5.1997 to all the party states including Kerala for their comments on the draft scheme. While the comments of Krnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have been received, Kerala has asked for some more time for sending their comments.

The scheme will be finalised strictly on merits after examining the comments of all the concerned Party States.

As such the question of not involving the State of Kerala for resolving the issue does not arise.

12.00 Noon

RE. NON-CIRCULATIOIN OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before Papers are laid, let me clear one thing. There was some query and some misunderstanding about some answers to questions about which the Members thought that those were not circulated properly. Accordingly to the rules and the practice in the Rajya Sabha—and in the Lok Sabha, I am sure—there are certain answers which are supplied and circulated. There are certain answers which are kept in the Notice Office of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and Members can go there and see them. Members can see them before they come here because the answers cannot be circulated till the question is actually asked. They are kind of not final. That is the thing. I was confused because I did not know what everybody else was saying. Mr. Malkani was also confused about a question which I checked up and found that it was correct. Then there was this answer on the same question; that has not been